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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 ANKARA 004636

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

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Monday, August 8, 2005

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Americans Do Not Support Bush on Iraq - Hurriyet
Iraq War Opponents Protest Bush in US, Britain - Aksam
Assad Visits Tehran for 'Wide' Cooperation - Vatan
Netanyahu Resigns to Protest Gaza Pullout - Sabah
Withdrawal Crisis in Israel - Hurriyet
Three Turkish Truck Drivers Abducted in Iraq - Hurriyet
60th Anniversary of Hiroshima - Sabah 8/7
Europeans Purchased 262 US Companies in 2005 - Milliyet 8/7

OPINION MAKERS

Iraqi Leaders Disagree on Federalism - Zaman
US Warns Shiites - Radikal
Talabani: No US Pressure on Iraq Constitution - Zaman
Barzani: Iraq Should be Federal and Democratic, Not Islamic
- Yeni Safak
Iraqi Police Shoot at Protesters: 1 Killed, 60 Injured -
Cumhuriyet
New York Times: Iraqi Insurgents Use Iranian-Made Bombs -
Zaman 8/7
Assad Makes Support Visit to Iran - Yeni Safak
Iran Challenges EU Troika - Radikal
Ahmedinajad Takes Oath, Rejects EU Proposals on Nuclear
Program - Zaman 8/7
Fanatic Brits Call for Death to Muslims - Yeni Safak 8/7
Popular Support for Bush Iraq Policies Plunges - Cumhuriyet
War Opponents Unite in US - Yeni Safak
US on Terror Alert in Saudi Arabia - Yeni Safak
Cheney, Father Bush in Saudi Arabia - Yeni Safak 8/7
London, World Mourn for Cook - Radikal
Hiroshima's Pain Still Fresh - Radikal 8/7

BRIEFING

US-Turkey-Iraq Security Talks: Turkish diplomats have asked the US at three-party security meetings among US, Turkey and Iraq in Washington to close the PKK offices in northern Iraq, weekend papers report. US and Iraqi officials said that the office in Kirkuk belonged to the Kurdistan Democratic Solution Party, and that they could not close the offices of political organizations. Americans, however, promised to take action if evidence linking the party to the PKK is provided, say reports. Turkey also reiterated requests for extradition of 150 PKK terrorists hiding in Iraq and urged the Iraqis to tighten border security measures to prevent infiltration of terrorists into Turkey. Monday papers agree that the security talks held in Washington had yielded no results. US officials are reported by the Turkish press as saying that the PKK was not seen as a primary threat in 'sovereign' Iraq, and advising Turkey patience. Some papers speculate that Washington had told the Turks that the US was ready to mediate between Turkey and Iraq for resolution of the PKK problem. Meanwhile, Saturday "Zaman" reports a meeting held by the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs in Washington. Specialists participating in the meeting stressed that the US must launch action against the PKK as soon as possible, says the report. Monday "Hurriyet" quotes retired general Osman Pamukoglu as warning that cross-border incursions against the PKK in northern Iraq would produce no results. Pamukoglu, the former commander of the Hakkari Mountain Brigade, said that there was no point in infuriating the world by launching operations against the PKK on Iraqi territory. He advised Turkey to set up an anti-terror ministry, claiming that this practice would be adopted around the world in a few years.

Grossman on US/Turkey, Iraq War, PKK: Former State Department U/S Marc Grossman said in an exclusive interview with "Milliyet" that the US needed to take forward steps

against the PKK if it wanted to ease Turkish reactions to the 'hooding' of Turkish troops by American forces in Suleymaniye in northern Iraq in July 2003. According to Grossman, the US made three mistakes in bargaining with Turkey before the war with Iraq: the US failed to outline a plan for struggling against the PKK while negotiating with Turks the transfer of US troops to Iraq through Turkish territory; post-war plans should have been more 'specific'; and the US should have voiced the benefits of a democratic and prosperous Iraq to Turkey louder, so that the Turkish nation would not have felt being excluded from the process. Grossman also said that the Turkish military had been informed of all the details of the Iraq war beforehand. Grossman regards the rejection of March 1 as the failure of both the US and Turkish governments in convincing the Turkish parliament. 'Now we must look at the future,' Grossman said. 'Now we must do something to convince the Turkish nation that Turkey should make some political investments to see a successful Iraq, which will be in the interests of Turkey.' Grossman also said that the Turkish nation was very much aware of the US support for Turkey against the PKK until the end of 1990s. 'I hope the Turkish nation will not forget that it was the United States who put the PKK in the list of terror organizations and pressured the European Union to do the same,' Grossman stressed.

US Senators to Visit North Cyprus: Monday papers report that seven US congressmen will fly from Istanbul to northern Cyprus today for talks with 'TRNC' officials, including Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat. The Greek Cypriot government denounced the 'unlawful' visit, papers report. Greek lobby attempts to block the visit remained futile, according to papers. Monday "Hurriyet" says that the members of the US delegation were not US congressmen, but congressional staffers.

MFA on Iraqi Kurds, Constitution: 'Turkey closely monitors the developments with regard to residential registration of thousands of Kurds in Kirkuk city in Iraq,' Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) Spokesman Namik Tan said at a weekly press briefing on Friday. 'Turkey is aware of the efforts of some groups in Kirkuk,' Tan said, adding: 'Concluding the constitution, which guarantees Iraq's unity and territorial integrity, and underlining national ownership of places characterized as Iraq's national assets, such as Kirkuk, are the expectation of the Iraqi people. Turkey supports this will.' Tan noted that a division in the future will not be a problem concerning Iraq alone, adding that Turkey believed that the Iraqis will not allow such a disintegration. Tan's remarks came as a response to the Barzani remarks last week, in which the KDP leader had announced inclusion in the constitution of referendum rights for the Kurds to determine their own fate, say papers.

AKP Lawmakers' Report on Southeast Turkey: Monday papers say that AKP lawmakers from southeast Turkey had drafted a report on regional problems on the eve of Prime Minister Erdogan's trip to the mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir on Friday. The report says that unemployment and street theft top the list of problems in Diyarbakir. Lawmakers suggested the following in the report: New irrigation dams are needed; agricultural industries should be supported; the Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP) should be completed; economic imbalances in the region should be eliminated; and direct flights should be launched from Diyarbakir to European countries.

Erdogan to Discuss with Intellectuals the PKK Question: On Wednesday, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan is to receive a group of intellectuals who have issued a statement calling on the PKK to lay down arms and on the government to pass necessary legislation, weekend papers report. Some prominent Turkish authors, journalists, academics and artists will join the meeting with the PM to discuss proposals to end the rising PKK terrorism. Several Turkish intellectuals released a declaration on June 15 expressing concern over growing violence in Turkey. Kurdish intellectuals have been reportedly 'angered' at the meeting for excluding them, and far-rightist Nationalist Action Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahceli denounced the gathering, saying that the government had agreed to make a contact with the PKK.

General Ozkok Complains of Restricted Military Authority against Terrorism: On Friday, the Chief of the Turkish General Staff (TGS) General Hilmi Ozkok pointed to the rising terrorist actions in recent days, saying that the military's struggle against terrorism will continue despite the curtailment of their authority. Ozkok told a ceremony in Ankara to welcome back soldiers serving in the multinational peacekeeping force ISAF in Afghanistan that the fight against the PKK will be more effective if it is carried out with the participation of the Turkish nation and its leaders and non-governmental organizations along with the military and security forces. Recent amendments in the anti-terror law aimed at facilitating Turkey's entry into

the European Union have limited the authority of security forces, bringing strict rules on house raids and arrests. Following legal reforms that took effect on June 1, the army is no longer allowed to conduct searches during the night, and will need permission from the prosecutor for house raids. The military had asked the government to set up a special institution to coordinate the fight against terrorism, but the government rejected the request. Saturday "Sabah" claims that the Turkish military was pressing for new measures against terrorism such as the ones seen in Western countries. Government spokesman Cemil Cicek responded to the complaints of Ozkok and said that the issue will be discussed at the National Security Council (NSC) meeting on August 23.

Turkey's EU Secretary-General Resigns: Turkey's Secretary General for EU Affairs Murat Sungar has resigned from his post, weekend papers report. Sungar rejected press reports claiming that he had quit over problems with the government, adding that his decision was solely for personal reasons. Sungar is said to have resigned because of his wife's health problems and because he wanted to make room for the government to form its own team for Turkey's upcoming entry talks with the EU. Sungar said he would remain in office until September. Papers speculate that Sungar had resigned in reaction to delays in EU harmonization reforms.

Israel Reroutes Cruise Ships to Avert Attack: Israel on Friday ordered four of its cruise ships carrying thousands of tourists not to dock at Turkey's Mediterranean resort of Alanya after receiving warnings of a possible terrorist attack, Monday papers report. There had been information of a possible al-Qaida attack against the ships carrying 3,500 Israeli tourists, say reports. The ships were diverted from Turkey to Cyprus on Monday.

Poll in Turkey on al-Qaida Actions: A public opinion poll conducted by Turks under the Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) on the 'perception of terrorism' among 2,500 respondents in the major Turkish provinces of Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Adana and Bursa shows that only 4 percent of Turks believe that al-Qaida is pursuing 'jihad,' and that only 5 percent see al-Qaida militants as freedom fighters, "Zaman" reports on Saturday. Thirty-four percent believe that al-Qaida actions have shown Muslims in disrepute. Eighteen percent see al-Qaida operations as a 'humiliation' for Muslims, and 31 percent are worried about the shape of the things to come. Bomb attacks in London, Madrid and Egypt have been wrong, according to 90 percent of Turks. Five percent believe that the attackers were right. Forty percent of Turks said that al-Qaida has attacked Istanbul thinking that Turkey constituted the best alternate against al-Qaida views. Thirty-six percent said the Istanbul attack was launched against Turkey for being an ally of the Western world. Fifty percent hold President Bush responsible for the spread of terror around the world, while 22 percent blame Ariel Sharon, 17 percent Osama bin-Ladin, and 4 percent Tony Blair. Six percent believe the US policies in the Middle East to be responsible for global terror. Only 4 percent link terrorism to religion, according to the survey.

Poll on Popularity of Turkish Leaders: Monday "Hurriyet" reports a public opinion survey which shows that the popularity of Prime Minister Erdogan has increased from 40.1 percent in June to 43.1 percent in July. Motherland Party (ANAP) leader Erkan Mumcu has 15.5 percent of backing of those conducted. The popularity of the Nationalist Action Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahceli and True Path Party (DYP) leader Mehmet Agar shows ups and downs depending on the political situation and are 16.2 and 15.2 percent, respectively. Public support for the main opposition CHP leader Baykal took a dive and is 13.1, says the survey.

Middle Eastern Capital Shifts to Turkey: Turkey has become the center for Middle Eastern capital, with more than 200 companies operating in Turkey following the enactment of the law on direct foreign investments, papers cite the semi-official "Anatolian Agency" on Sunday. The Middle Eastern foreign capital amounted to USD 42 million in 2004. Middle Eastern companies operate in Turkey in communications, tourism, infrastructure and finance fields. Dailies comment that the Middle Eastern and Arab capital began flowing into Turkey after reactions in the United States and the European countries against the Arabs and Muslims following the September 11 events. They also say that the speeded-up privatization and revival of political and trade relations with regional countries were other main factors in the transfer of Arab capital to Turkey.

Report: 2.5 Million Unemployed in Turkey: A report by the Ankara Chamber of Trade (ATO) shows the number of unemployed in Turkey to be about 2.5 million, papers report. More than one million, which makes 38 percent of the unemployed, are the primary breadwinners of their families. Seventy percent of the unemployed, most of them between the ages of 25 and

49, live in cities, says the ATO report.

Terrorists Kill 5 Soldiers in Southeast Turkey: Five Turkish troops were killed and six others were wounded in an attack by PKK militants in Turkey's southeastern Hakkari province, papers report over the weekend. The attack happened in the early hours of Friday near the town of Semdinli on Turkey's borders with Iran and Iraq. Military officials said that a bomb was left in a plastic bag and went off as the soldiers were passing it near the local jandarma headquarters in Semdinli. The bomb is believed to have been set off by remote control. Security forces have launched an operation to catch the terrorists. Meanwhile, a landmine thought to have been planted by PKK militants exploded on a rural road in the Bingol province in eastern Turkey on Friday shortly after a convoy carrying senior local officials and AKP lawmakers passed, but there were no casualties, local sources said. On Saturday, five suspects were arrested in the Mediterranean city of Mersin in connection with a plot to carry out bomb attacks, papers report. Police said that 1.5kg of plastic explosives and 20kg of chemicals had been seized together with the suspects who were preparing for attacks on government buildings and tourism facilities.

Three Turks Abducted in Iraq: Three Turks were abducted by an insurgent group called 'Al-Fursan Brigades' in Iraq, Monday papers quote Al-Jazeera TV. The group said in a statement that its repeated warnings against working with the US forces have been in vain and that the punishment awaiting the abducted Turks will be the last warning to companies cooperating with the occupation forces. The Turks were working for a Turkish company ferrying goods to US forces in Iraq.

PKK Terrorists Captured in Mersin: Five PKK terrorists were captured in Turkey's southern port city of Mersin, papers reported on Saturday. 1.5 kg of plastic explosives and 20 kg of chemicals were seized in the hideout of terrorists who were preparing to attack state institutions and tourism facilities in the region, Mersin police said in a statement.

EDITORIAL OPINION: GWOT/Iraq

"The US and the PKK"

Umit Ozdag argued in the mass appeal-sensational "Aksam" (8/8): "The trilateral security meeting in Washington about the PKK ended with no tangible results. Turkey raised the issue of the PKK bureau in Kirkuk. However, both Iraq and the US representatives described it as a bureau of the 'Democratic Solution Party of Kurdistan.' The US continues to implement certain tactical steps in Iraq. Currently the US tactic is to change the demographic structure of Kirkuk in favor of Kurds. In recent weeks the number of Kurds flowing into this area reached 80,000. The US army plans to station troops in the military bases along the Mosul-Erbil-Kirkuk line and control the area. By doing that the American army will leave other parts of Iraq to a civil war between Sunnis and Shiites and keep 'Kurdistan' in the north away from a civil war situation. US control in Iraq's north also means the use of oil by American and Kurdish companies. Given the current situation in Iraq, the US is using the PKK against Turkey as well as to gather intelligence against Iran. Turkey is living in a period where enemies and friends constantly change."

"Standing against Terror"

Gungor Mengi commented in the mass appeal "Vatan" (8/6): "Growing terrorist incidents in Turkey have become a major concern for everybody, and the Turkish Chief of General Staff made a call to all segments of society to exert efforts to fight against terrorism. First of all, we should not define the PKK's power as being bigger than it actually is. Secondly, Turkey should do its best to convince the US of the PKK threat. The PKK terrorists are using the area controlled by the US and manage to cross the border to go back to their headquarters after carrying out their attacks in Turkey. The US is currently presenting a double standard against the fight on terrorism, and it is also betraying its own values. The US is losing Turkey's friendship under the current circumstances. Turkey's problem with terrorism will not come to an end even if we convince Washington about the PKK threat. There is no doubt that some neighbors of ours with bad intentions will continue to play terrorism as a trump card against Turkey. Therefore, Turkey must start thinking about a professional anti-terror military force. A professional structure is a must, especially when we don't get sincere support even from the US on the fight against terrorism."

"First, the War at Home Has to be Won"

Kamuran Ozbir observed in the nationalist "Ortadogu" (8/8): "The careless attitude of the US is the biggest obstacle for an international conference to be arranged on the issue of terrorism. Washington is not enthusiastic about such a

conference. Including the UK, all the other allies of the US continue to observe the growing terrorism with serious concern. Because they are worried that some Muslim groups in their own countries will turn against them in the future due to the developing anti-Islam stance in the West. As the famous French author Gilles Kepel mentioned last year, "The Muslim's biggest intellectual battle in the next ten years is not going to take place in Palestine or Iraq but more likely in London, Paris and in the other European capitals. To win the war at home naturally will require great changes in the UK's foreign policy."

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